

Turkey rejects U.N. plea to open borders to Iraqi refugees

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey on Saturday rejected a U.N. appeal to leave open its borders for refugees fleeing possible military strikes against Iraq. Instead Turkey says it is ready to send thousands of troops across the frontier to prevent any influx of Kurdish refugees. "It is impossible for us to let them in," Deputy Premier Bulent Ecevit was quoted as saying by the Anatolia news agency. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees last week asked countries bordering Iraq not to slam the door on refugees seeking aid. "But there is no need to concern. Turkey has the capability to protect them just across its borders," Mr. Ecevit said. Jordan, Iran and Turkey fear they may again have to deal with huge waves of refugees, as they did during the 1990 Arabian Gulf crisis and 1991 Gulf war.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

U.S. plans call for four days of bombing Iraq — report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military aims to bomb Iraq around the clock for four days if raids go ahead, the New York Times reported Saturday, citing top U.S. government officials. Senior U.S. officials told the newspaper they feared that earlier plans calling for several weeks of bombing would not force Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to allow unrestricted weapons inspections. The new plans are aimed at crippling Iraq's military and diminishing its ability to use and produce biological and chemical weapons, the paper reported. The officials said the United States would focus on hitting production sites, conventional forces and President Hussein's power structure because it cannot tell exactly where the Iraqi long-range missiles and chemical and biological weapons are being kept. Top U.S. officials also believe that President Hussein's conventional military is so weak it cannot threaten any neighbouring countries.

Volume 23 Number 6770

AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1998, SHAWWAL 25, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Ma'an riots continue

King warns Jordan will not tolerate instigation of violence

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday said that Jordan will not tolerate anyone who instigates riots and calls for violence in any part of the country.

"There were elements of sedition and trouble and there were some who instigated disturbances," the King told soldiers near the city of Ma'an, where riots continued yesterday following the death of a 22-year-old man on Friday.

"These actions cannot be tolerated," the King, who visited the city and met with its notables, said.

"In my talks to senators and deputies in Ma'an, I told them that this was a shameful act, especially coming from Ma'an, which was the town where the Kingdom was founded."

the King said. "Everyone who tries to stir trouble and riots in this country is contributing to the implementation of conspiracies [against Jordan]," the King added.

"Tribal leaders are not able to control some of the people who carry machine-guns. This is the third time. Not the first or the second. This means if a seed of evil is spread it will cause us great deal of trouble," the King said.

"We are telling the people that we live in a democracy in which people can talk to one another and understand each other in a free atmosphere," the King said.

"We hope the time will come when we do not have any troublemakers and malicious or ungrateful

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein talks to soldiers on the outskirts of the southern city of Ma'an on Saturday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

King: In my talks to senators and deputies from Ma'an, I told them that this was a shameful act

Following are major excerpts from His Majesty King Hussein's address to army troops in the south on Saturday:

I BELIEVE you are aware of the recent incidents in Ma'an where there were elements of sedition and trouble and there were some who instigated disturbances. These actions cannot be tolerated. In my talks to senators and deputies from Ma'an, I told them that this was a shameful act, especially coming from Ma'an, the town where the Kingdom was founded. The people of Ma'an are my family and folks. God only knows how hard we worked to turn this country into a model for others and in order to advance under very critical circumstances.

Looking around us, we are not pleased with what we see. This is our destiny. For Palestine, we have offered more sacrifices than others. As for Iraq, we have offered more than any other. Day and night our only concern is about Iraq and we are trying to ward off any military strike. I told the Iraqi Foreign Minister [Mohammed Said Al Sahhaf] in Amman: "You have broken our back. If you listened to our advice since

1990 you would not have been in this crisis now."

We are concerned about the Iraqis, the pictures of the children and the dead. These are the pictures of the people of Iraq and we are doing our best. International organisations are telling us that should a military strike occur Jordan will be expecting a wave of half a million people coming from Iraq.

Remember the events of 1991 and how much we endured and how many sacrifices we offered.

On the western side of the river, if anything happens there, the remaining Palestinian people will come to Jordan, which will then be considered a substitute homeland for the Palestinians, and Jordan will be finished. Anyone who tries to stir trouble and riots in this country is contributing to the implementation of these conspiracies. This country is dear to us. Your officers will be briefing you on what is happening so far. In this city, tribal leaders are not able to control some of the people who carry machine-guns. This is the third time, not the first nor the second.

(Continued on page 7)

Prince Hassan back home after talks with French, British officials

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday returned to Amman following visits to Britain and France during which he discussed with British and French officials diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the U.N.-Iraq crisis.

In statements to journalists upon his return, Prince Hassan, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, expressed hope that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan will reach a diplomatic solution to the crisis and restore stability in the region.

Prince Hassan said that the U.N.-Iraq crisis is an international one and that there is general consensus that all that has been agreed upon must be respected.

The Crown Prince said there were signs of optimism, and concentration on the human dimension, such as the increase in the amount of oil which Iraq can sell to buy medicine and food.

"I met with Arab ambassadors in Paris and I've had telephone calls from Arab officials who expressed their support for the attempts being made by the secretary general. We have done everything our duty demands us to do as a country neighbouring Iraq and as an Arab country," the Crown Prince said.

He said that Jordan has been doing everything possible to contain the crisis and to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and bring about stability to the region.

While in Paris, Prince Hassan held talks with French President Jacques Chirac and stressed that a peaceful solution to the crisis must be found in order to save Iraq and the whole region the catastrophic consequences of a new military confrontation.

The Crown Prince's talks with President Chirac represented what one official described as concerted Jordanian contacts with world leaders able to influence the

course of events in the U.N.-Iraq crisis at this sensitive and critical stage in the standoff.

Prince Hassan also held talks with Mr. Annan on efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the standoff over weapons inspections and save the whole region the disastrous consequences of a military option.

The Crown Prince was briefed by Mr. Annan on his last-ditch mission to Baghdad.

In London, Prince Hassan held talks with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. During his talks, Prince Hassan called on Iraq to implement all relevant U.N. resolutions and underlined the need for ending the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Both Prince Hassan and Mr. Cook emphasised the need to exert all possible efforts to put the peace process back on track in order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace that guarantees the right of all parties.

Sharon expected in Amman today for talks on water, JRV projects Mulki to meet Sharansky tomorrow

By Alia A. Toukan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin is expected to hold talks today with Israel's minister of infrastructure, Ariel Sharon, on bilateral relations and joint projects, officials said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali may meet with Mr. Sharon, one official source told the Jordan Times. There was no official confirmation, however,

of whether His Majesty King Hussein would be meeting Mr. Sharon.

Some officials said, however, that pro-Iraqi riots in Ma'an might lead to the cancellation of the visit, amid heightened tension in the region due to the Iraq-U.S. standoff over weapons inspections.

One source indicated that Mr. Sharon may cancel the trip if he is not assured of a high-profile visit with sufficient coverage, a wish the Jordanians might be reluctant to comply with due to internal and regional pressures.

The scheduled meeting between Mr. Haddadin and Mr. Sharon serves as a follow-up to talks held between the two officials in Israel on Wednesday.

"The talks between Mr. Haddadin and Mr. Sharon will be a continuation of discussions held between them last week on water and Jordan Rift Valley (JRV) projects," an official told the Jordan Times on Saturday.

Israel's minister of trade and industry, Natan

(Continued on page 7)

After talks with Aziz, Annan says he is 'rather optimistic'

Combined agency dispatches

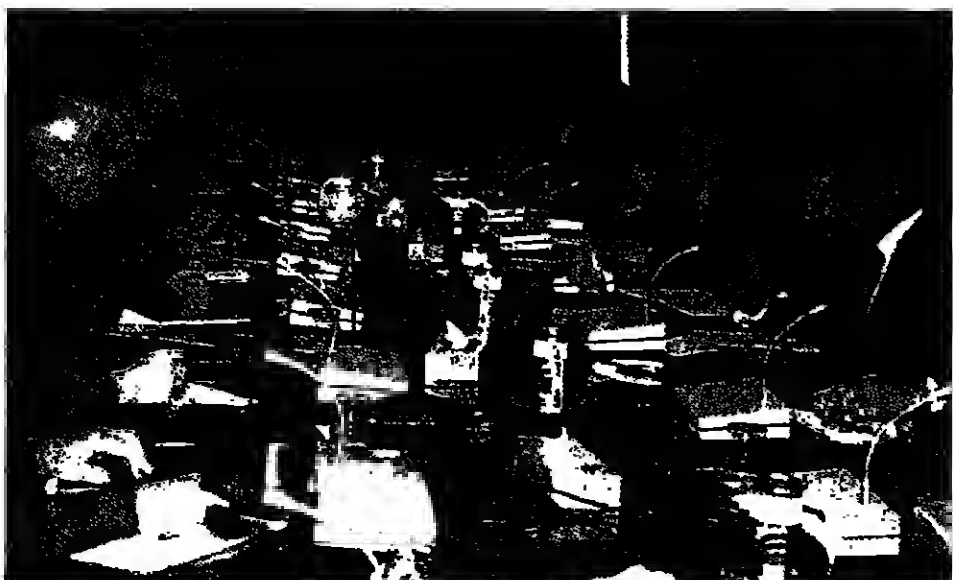
IN A mission to avert a military strike, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan held two rounds of talks Saturday with Iraqi officials. He said he was "rather optimistic" he would win an agreement to open all suspected weapons sites.

Mr. Annan, who arrived in the Iraqi capital Friday, said he was hopeful he would meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, likely Sunday.

Scheduling such a meeting would be a clear sign that Iraq was prepared to accept an agreement to open eight presidential sites to U.N. weapons inspectors. Mr. Annan said he expected the Iraqis would accept a written document outlining terms of the agreement, which would then have to be endorsed by the United States.

"I expect to get a document," Mr. Annan said after the talks in the morning. "I am rather optimistic."

Mr. Annan began his official meetings at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. Half of the three-hour session was devoted to a private meeting between Mr. Annan and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister



Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan hold formal talks Saturday on Iraq's row with the United Nations (Reuters photo)

ter Tareq Aziz.

Afterward, the full delegations — nine Iraqis and eight U.N. officials — met for another 90 minutes at the Foreign Ministry and then resumed their talks in the evening.

Following a dinner break, delegations headed by Mr. Aziz and Mr. Annan were scheduled to hold a third round of talks, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

A diplomat who attended the meeting said Mr. Annan had said he had brought a

"package" with him and would take a package back.

It would have to include two key elements: full compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions and no dilution of the role of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), charged with scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Before his talks with Mr. Aziz, Mr. Annan met Russian special envoy to Baghdad, Viktor Posuvalyuk, who has spent several weeks here trying to work

out a formula to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Annan's optimism came after a member of the U.N. delegation, former Algerian foreign minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, told reporters that the situation was "extremely polarised."

At issue are Security Council demands that Iraq allow U.N. inspectors unrestricted access to all areas, including eight presidential sites which Baghdad has placed off-limits.

(Continued on page 3)

U.N. has no food reserves in Iraq if war disrupts supplies

BAGHDAD (AP) — The United Nations has no reserve stocks to feed the 22 million Iraqis if military action in the Gulf disrupts the flow of humanitarian supplies to Iraq, a senior U.N. official said Saturday.

About 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq are totally reliant on food supplies reaching the country under the so-called oil-for-food deal, Denis Halliday, U.N. relief coordinator for Iraq, said.

The government could draw on its own stocks for the central and southern parts of Iraq but even that, according to a U.N. report released recently, will not be enough to cover urgent needs.

"The oil-for-food programme does not have a reserve stock. We are reliant on incoming grain and other supplies every month. So that is certainly a concern and I do not have an answer to that," Mr. Halliday told reporters in Baghdad.

No official figures are available on domestic food production, but the U.N.

(Continued on page 3)

Forcibly ousting Saddam from power seen as risky long shot

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says that eventually "biology will work" and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will be gone.

But if U.S. President Bill Clinton is unwilling to wait, there are at least two other ways, short of assassination, that he might try to remove the Iraqi president from power.

One is to encourage a military coup, the other is to help a political opposition group set up a new provisional government. Both seem long shots, and the Clinton administration appears to share the doubts of some of Iraq's neighbours that replacing President Hussein would mean a more stable Middle East.

At an appearance in Nashville, Tennessee, on Thursday, Ms. Albright said Mr. Clinton is content, for now, to keep President Hussein "in his box" without undertaking the enormous risk of sending U.S. ground forces to try to topple him.

"Ultimately, biology will work and he will disappear," she said.

Assassination of a foreign leader is prohibited by presidential order, so trying to remove the Iraqi president by force of arms would mean occupying the coun-

try by seizing control of Baghdad, defeating the Republican Guard troops who sustain President Hussein and then safeguarding a new government.

"It's just not in the cards," said Harry Summers, a retired army colonel. He says the stakes are not high enough to win U.S. public approval for an invasion of Iraq that would cost many lives — military and civilian.

Mr. Clinton has ruled out the option. "I don't believe we need to get into a direct war with Iraq over the leadership of the country," he said recently.

Like former U.S. President George Bush in 1991, Mr. Clinton does not believe the American public would stand for having an American army of occupa-

tion in Iraq for as long as it might take to put a crippled country back on a solid political footing. Nor does he believe other Arab countries would accept it.

Still, it appeared from questions asked of Mr. Clinton's top foreign policy advisers at Ohio State University on Wednesday that some Americans are fed up with President Hussein's antics and wonder if there is not a way to eliminate him.

"Are we willing to send troops in and finish the job?" an emotion-charged veteran asked. In reply, U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said the aim was to get U.N. inspectors

(Continued on page 7)

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هاتفنا الجديد

Palestinian, Israeli officers destroy explosives seized in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A senior PNA security official Wednesday said Palestinian and Israeli officers last week blew up large quantities of explosives found in a West Bank factory used by Hamas.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the hundreds of kilograms of highly explosive material found in a factory in the West Bank town of Nablus were moved to an area outside Palestinian control and blown up by the two sides.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in Washington following Tuesday talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, has set a PNA crackdown on militants as a precondition for a long-delayed troop pullback in the West Bank.

The PNA security official said Israeli and Palestinian security authorities had cooperated on the case of the Nablus-based factory. He said the explosion took place outside PNA-controlled areas, on West Bank land still under occupation.

A PNA military court this week sentenced to 15 years with hard labour two members of Hamas for preparing explosives used in the July and September Jerusalem suicide attacks which killed 21 Israelis.

An Israeli paramilitary border police officer identified as chief inspector Natan, commander of the West Bank bomb squad, told Israel Army Radio: "There was a flash of fire dozens of metres [high], the walls of the quarry collapsed, a boom was heard at a distance of several kilometres in the whole area."

"But as the boom was heard there was also heart-felt relief that everything went all right and that the sound was heard in the quarry and not somewhere else in the state of Israel," he said.

Another official, Tawfiq Al Turawi, the PNA's West Bank intelligence chief, said he met with Israeli security officials on Tuesday night and discussed with them Israeli violations of interim peace deals.

Amnesty condemns trial of two Hamas activists as 'flagrantly unfair'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amnesty International (AI) on Wednesday released a statement condemning as flagrantly unfair the trial on Jan. 19 of two Hamas activists accused of having set up a bomb factory in Nablus.

Nasser Abu Al Rus and Jasser Salameh were tried within days of their arrest, in a summary trial before the State Security Court in Jericho. The trial was held before military judges, with a military prosecutor, under the PLO Code of 1979 — up to now only used against members of the security services. The public were barred from the half-hour trial. The court appointed a military lawyer to represent the two defendants, and lawyers offering to represent the defendants were

not allowed into the court except to hear the sentences of 15 years imprisonment with hard labour, the statement read.

"No one can tell whether those arrested are guilty or innocent when they are tried in such a way," AI said. "These abuses undermine the judicial system and are a denial of justice."

The organisation also condemned the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) prolonged detention without charge or trial of more than 150 suspected members of Islamist opposition groups. Some of these detainees have been held for more than a year while orders from the attorney general or the Palestinian High Court to release specific detainees against whom no charges had been

filed and no evidence produced have been ignored, the statement continued.

"After the Palestinian High Court ordered the immediate release, on grounds of unlawful detention, of Shaikh Mahmud Musleh, a Hamas activist, in December 1997, he was taken for a short walk and then brought back to prison. He was told that he had been rearrested. That makes a mockery of the law," AI said.

In the context of the peace accords, Israel has put increasing pressure on the PNA to "fulfil its commitments to fight terrorism" by, among other things, "the apprehension, prosecution and punishment of terrorists." The Israeli Government has used the issue of "terrorism" as an excuse

for allowing the Israeli General Security Service to use practices which constitute torture during interrogation and for holding over 300 Palestinians in administrative detention without trial.

"It is now time for the PNA and Israel to accept that a government's legitimate right to fight crime and violence can only be carried out with due respect for human rights," AI said. "The international community, particularly the United States, which is brokering Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, should also make it clear that they will not condone or encourage human rights abuses such as unfair trials, detention without trial and torture."



PROPERTY CONFISCATION: An Israeli policeman Wednesday escorts a Palestinian man away from trying to block an Israeli bulldozer from working on land he claims he owns near the West Bank town of Hebron. U.S. President Bill Clinton is meeting this week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to determine how much land will be returned to the Palestinians in the next phase of the stalled peace process (AP photo)

National unity lends support to Palestinian struggle — Regent

(Continued from page 1)

country and ensuring a decent living for all its citizens.

Prince Hassan recalled that his grandfather, the late King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom, used to describe the refugees as "people who took refuge in Jordan in order to participate and contribute to building the nation."

He called on the public to deal with national matters with clarity, openness and in an objective and realistic manner.

"Jordan's real concerns are poverty and unemployment, which the country is dealing with on a non-discriminatory basis because poverty does not differentiate between one group and another," said the Regent. Referring to the security aid package which Jordan adopted last year, he said this package is designed to combat poverty and unemployment among various

groups of the society and to lay the infrastructure for all regions of the Kingdom.

He noted that the strategy of the social security package is based on pure humanitarian considerations, and that it will deal with all people on equal terms "because one cannot divide people into two groups, one of whom will be the sole beneficiary."

He said the social security package will be implemented on two tracks: a long term track aiming at creating job opportunities and improving the infrastructure and a short term track aiming at providing financial aid to the needy people of Jordan.

Emphasising Jordan's firm stand regarding any settlement to the Palestinian refugee problem, Prince Hassan said: "There is no justification for any political concerns connected with the questions of settling [the refugees]." He said that there is consensus

on the right of the refugees to return, to receive compensation and to reject settlement in countries other than their own.

The Regent underlined the need for a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, noting that the stalled peace process has created a state of anxiety and tension in the region.

Prince Hassan said: "Jordan constitutes the lung for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip... Jordan will continue to enhance trade and economic cooperation with the Palestinians."

"The Palestinian imports from Israel amount to \$2.5 billion annually while Jordan's exports to Palestine amount to mere \$7 million," the Prince said, noting that lack of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation can only serve Israel's interests. Prince Hassan underlined Jordan's firm policy of maintaining strong cooperation

and integration with all Arab countries, noting that Jordan's trade with the Arab World far exceeds that of any Arab country.

Stressing that Jordanians should deal with all issues as a single family and as partners in construction, Prince Hassan said that Jordanians should rely only on facts and the truth rather than rumours aimed at belittling the Kingdom's achievements.

Among those attending the iftar were representatives of Baqaa, Al Hussein, Madaba, Zarqa and Hittien refugee camps who lined the streets to greet the Crown Prince.

In the dialogue that followed the Regent's speech, notable speakers reaffirmed allegiance to the country and King and thanked Prince Hassan for his visit. They also echoed his call for cohesion among members of the Jordanian family and for enhancing the national unity.

Iraq wants freeze on inspections of sensitive sites

(Continued from page 1)

the only obstacle to lifting the embargo was this question of access to presidential and sovereign sites, then he and I could meet again in April to talk about it," Mr. Butler said.

He said he doubted the technical meetings would "produce the outcome that he [Aziz] had in mind."

Mr. Butler also said that if U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspectors asked him to authorise an attempt to inspect a presidential or sovereign site in the meantime, he would do so.

Mr. Butler left for the United States later on Wednesday after two days of hard and inconclusive talks. He will address the U.N. Security Council on Friday.

The long-running stand-

off between Iraq and the United Nations has threatened to develop into a fresh showdown between Baghdad and the West.

On Tuesday, the U.N. arms inspector described his discussions in Baghdad as "quite direct, quite blunt" and said Iraq had told him it had no fresh information to give him on its weapons of mass destruction.

Neither had it elaborated on a threat by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to set a six-month deadline for the inspectors to wrap up their work.

Earlier in the day he said the dispute could not drag on indefinitely and added: "I don't think this play has many acts left."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin on Tuesday reiterated the long-held U.S. view that military action

against Iraq "is not ruled out."

"And when and if the time comes, we are confident that those... whose assistance we need and whose support we have seen in the past will be with us," he added.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said on Wednesday the United States wanted a diplomatic solution but was determined not to allow Baghdad to threaten its neighbours with biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

In a speech to sailors and air crew on the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence in Japan, as it prepared to head for the Gulf, Mr. Cohen said they were to become part of a major U.S. force that would pressure President Hussein into complying with weapons inspections. "We are determined to

make sure that he is not going to have the capacity to threaten his neighbours, to threaten Kuwait, to threaten Saudi Arabia or to pose any threat to any of the countries in that region," Mr. Cohen said.

Mr. Butler said in an interview with Reuters on Tuesday that "words weren't minced" in his talks.

One source described them as the "toughest in three years."

"I was basically told there will be no new information. In hard, substantive terms of disarmament, that is probably the most dispiriting thing that has been said in the last hours," Mr. Butler added.

He said Iraq's refusal to let inspectors into "presidential sites," announced during his previous visit in December, could not continue indefinitely.

Aziz accuses U.N. weapon inspectors of incompetence

(Continued from page 1)

UNSCOM were highly-trained scientists, and that when one of them briefs a U.N. inspector using scientific terms "their counterpart does not understand and reacts in a suspicious manner."

Also on Wednesday, an Iraqi diplomat dismissed as "propaganda" a British

accusation that Iraq was producing enough anthrax to fill two missile warheads a week.

The diplomat told reporters here, reacting to comments in Hong Kong by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook: "It's just propaganda."

The diplomat denied that Iraq held any of the deadly germ warfare agent, saying

that "at the end of the war, Iraq had no activities in any biological or chemical weapons."

Mr. Cook told a news conference in Hong Kong that "with every passing day, Saddam Hussein can continue to expand his arsenal of chemical and biological weapons."

"Every week, Saddam Hussein is creating enough

additional anthrax to fill two missile warheads."

U.N. officials were unable to confirm the information in Mr. Cook's statement.

Iraq has admitted to 10 tonnes of anthrax, but the U.N. weapons inspectors have been unable to verify the information, and suspect that the amounts held may be more than three times as high.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

Thursday Programmes

14:10 My Little Fairy Tale
14:30 French Programme
16:15 Prayers
16:30 Believe and Behave
17:00 NBA
18:00 The Prince & The Pauper
18:30 News Headlines
18:35 Big Brother Jake
19:00 Le Journal
19:05 Ramadan Talks
19:35 Black Hat Chef
20:00 Over a Cup of Tea
20:30 Lois & Clark
21:10 The Oprah Winfrey Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "The Mouse in the Corner"
23:59 Music Show

Friday Programmes

14:10 Ruxpin
14:30 French Programme
16:15 Prayers
16:30 Believe and Behave
17:00 Wishbone
17:30 Memo Cafe
18:30 News Headlines
18:35 Small Talk
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Ramadan Talk
19:35 Life on the Internet
20:00 Friends
20:30 Adventures of Brisco County
21:10 Knife to the Heart
22:00 News in English
22:30 Mini-series — Streets of Laredo
23:15 Feature Film: "Fatal Friendship"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:30 (Sunrise) Duha
11:47 Dhuhur
14:39 'Asr
17:04 Maghreb
18:24 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swaffeh, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 865897
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 81295
English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Temperatures are expected to rise gradually during the weekend. It will be sunny and warm during the day becoming cool at night with winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman05/17
Aqaba10/24
Deserts03/13
Jordan Valley09/22

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 15, Aqaba 21 Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Wisam Hazzayin748563
Dr. Mukhtas Zahrah820425
Dr. Hasan Hammad674884
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyin650115
Firas pharmacy661912
Ferdows pharmacy778336
Al Asema pharmacy637055
Nabrouh pharmacy623672

Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Farzi Abul Hajja252970
Al Quds pharmacy1-1-1
ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Al Safarini987565
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111
Civil Defence Department661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192621111
637777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department630321
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs661101

Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority815615
Electric Power Company636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre81381332
Khalidi Maternity6428116
Akileh Maternity6424112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhus, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muasher Hospital6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612037
Al-Abli, Abdali6641646
Italian, Al-Muthajreen77511126
Al-Bashir,77511126
Army, Marka89161115
Queen Alia Hospital60224050
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery665199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital091983323

Zarqa National Hospital09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987532
Al Hikma Modern Hospital09990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital021275555
Greek Catholic Hospital02127275
Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200
Aqaba:
Princess Haya Hospital03134111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 44 (53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
08:15 Sanaa (RJ)
08:25 Bombay (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)

10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:05 Muscat, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights

13:15 Riyadh (SV)
14:10 Sharjah (AH)
15:00 Doha (QI)
15:20 Muscat, Doha (GF)
16:00 Dubai (EK)
16:30 Rome (AZ)
20:00 Tel Aviv (MS)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:40 Cairo (MS)
23:10 Istanbul (TK)
23:30 London, Beirut (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Al Ain (RJ)
10:00 Moscow (RJ)
10:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (add) (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:05 Kuwait (RJ)
12:10 Paris (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:20 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Larnaca (RJ)
20:10 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
23:00 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

00:35 Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Athens (OA)
06:40 Beirut, London (BA)
08:00 Beirut (ME)
11:20 London (BA)
14:45 Riyadh (SV)
15:00 Algiers (AF)
15:55 Doha (QR)
16:20 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
17:00 Muscat, Dubai (EK)
17:30 Rome (AZ)
21:20 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:40 Cairo (MS)
08:00 Beirut (ME)

Royal Wings (RW)

(For Thursday and Friday)

07:45 Aqaba (RW)
09:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:20 Tel Aviv (RW)
18:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:20 Aqaba (RW)
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

Royal Wings

(For Thursday and Friday)

06:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
08:15 Aqaba (RW)
09:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
16:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:55 Tel Aviv (RW)
20:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50 Aqaba (RW)

Cohen visits Korean DMZ to illustrate landmine need

PANMUNJOM. South Korea (AFP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen visited a former North Korean invasion route Wednesday to illustrate why Washington has not joined in a global ban on anti-personnel landmines.

With U.S. soldiers standing guard, Mr. Cohen inspected a 150-metre stretch of road near the Demilitarised Zone that runs through fields sown with hundreds of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines.

"Without these mines our troops would be vulnerable, indeed the people of South Korea would be vulnerable to a surprise attack and the strength of a million-man army on the other side of the DMZ," Mr. Cohen said.

The two-lane black-top, which runs through the mountains north to the truce village at Panmunjom, was one of the main routes used by the North Korean army to invade the South in 1950.

Main Supply Route One today runs through an obstacle course of mine-

fields, 10-foot high "tank walls" and traps engineered to drop slabs of concrete across the road in times of war.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last year bowed to the Pentagon's argument that mines were indispensable on the Korean Peninsula, and refused to sign the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel landmines without an exception for Korea.

But the ban continues to gain political momentum with each new signatory. Jodie Williams, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for leading the campaign to ban landmines, is due here Feb. 2-5 at the invitation of South Korean environmentalists.

A one-year U.S. moratorium on the use of anti-personnel land mines begins next year, except in Korea, and the U.S. administration has pledged to try to come up with an alternative to landmines in Korea by 2006.

None has been found yet, according to Mr. Cohen, although different tech-

nologies are being explored.

"It's well and good that we're determined to find alternatives if they exist, but they must not in any way diminish the security that currently is being provided by the landmines in place," Mr. Cohen said.

There are as many as a million mines planted along the south side of the DMZ, all of them South Korean. But U.S. plans call for the planting of millions more in designated areas if war breaks out, a U.S. military official said.

With Seoul 27 miles from the DMZ, and 65 per cent of the North Korean forces massed near the frontier, U.S. military planners insist that mines are needed to slow down invading forces and channel them into "kill zones."

Mr. Cohen, who arrived here from Japan, flew from Camp Bonifacio near the DMZ by helicopter to a U.S. military range north-east of Seoul to watch a live fire exercise and give a pep talk to GIs training in the biting mountain cold.

From a mountaintop observation post, Mr. Cohen could see M1-A1 battle tanks and Bradley Fighting vehicles and Apache helicopters firing volleys of cannon and rocket fire into a mountainside.

On his last stop of an 11-day seven country tour, Mr. Cohen is scheduled to meet Thursday with Korea's President-elect Kim Dae-jung and outgoing President Kim Young-sam.

The talks are expected to deal with the impact of the economic crisis on South Korea's military budgets and its weapons procurement plans.

The crisis is reported to have derailed some major arms purchases, including an estimated billion dollar deal for AWACS radar surveillance planes that was being negotiated with Boeing.

As he did in visits last week to South East Asian countries, Mr. Cohen was expected to offer assurances that Washington would try to help work out ways to stretch out or restructure arms purchases.



U.S. Secretary of Defence William Cohen smiles after receiving a souvenir gift from the troops of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division at a live firing range near the South Korean town of Uijongbu (Reuters photo)

Ruling out Chechnya recognition, Georgia urges quid pro quo

MOSCOW (AFP) — Georgia ruled out Wednesday unilateral moves to recognise the breakaway Russian Republic of Chechnya, and urged Moscow to reciprocate over Tbilisi's secessionist regions.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Ukleba said he hoped Moscow would not bypass Tbilisi and deal directly with the breakaway Georgian republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

"These are similar processes, so the two sovereign states — Georgia and Russia, must thor-

oughly weigh their moves," he said, referring to Russia's difficulties in Chechnya.

Chechen separatists inflicted a series of humiliating defeats on Russian forces sent to crush their independence drive during a 21-month war which left more than 50,000 people dead, mainly civilians.

The two sides signed a formal peace treaty in June last year, and although the issue of deciding Chechnya's final status was put off for five years, the Chechens have won de facto independence from Moscow.

Abkhazian separatists drove out Georgian government troops from the northern province in a 1992-93 war in which up to 10,000 people died. Tbilisi blamed its defeat on Russian support for the separatists, although it accepted a Russian peace-keeping force in the area as part of a May 1994 ceasefire.

South Ossetian separatists, pushing for reunification with neighbouring Russian republic of North Ossetia, defeated Georgian troops in 1991 after Tbilisi scrapped its autonomous status in 1990. A ceasefire has been in force since 1992.

Sonia Gandhi evokes insurgency horrors in emotional election speech

GUWAHATI, India (AFP) — Sonia Gandhi, the widow of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Wednesday touched upon the horrors of insurgency in an emotive election speech for her husband's embattled Congress party.

The Italian-born widow told a crowd of 20,000 here that she empathised with victims of insurgency in India's militancy-ridden eastern frontier, where 50,000 people have died in separatist violence over 50 years.

Sonia Gandhi, who began campaigning for the Congress from her husband's murder site in the south of the country, referred to the assassinations of her husband and her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi, who was also prime minister.

"I can feel the trauma and agony of the women in the north-east whose near ones have lost their lives to terrorists' bullets," she said in Hindi, India's national language.

India is going to the polls in February and March to elect a new government. Analysts

predict another hung parliament, with the Hindu nationalists emerging as the largest party ahead of Congress.

Congress, in decline after ruling India for four decades after independence, is hoping that the aura of the Gandhi name and Sonia's campaigns will bring it back to power.

Sonia Gandhi, who was accompanied by her daughter Priyanka, said: "I have seen my mother-in-law and my husband sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country... I am the daughter-in-law of that family which has sacrificed everything for India."

The crowd at the venue, an open ground in the heart of the capital of the state of Assam, shouted slogans in support of Mrs. Sonia. Many women wept openly during her speech.

The site was decorated with huge cutouts of Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. The 51-year-old Gandhi said the Congress, India's oldest bloc, was the best bet for India, which has seen three governments since

the last general elections in 1996 led to a hung parliament.

"Congress is the only party in the country which can provide a stable government for five years," she said. "The real enemy of the people today is militancy, growing inflation, poverty and illiteracy."

Guwahati was Sonia Gandhi's ninth election stop since she began campaigning for the Congress on Jan. 11 in a southern town where her husband was blown up by Sri Lankan Tamil rebels.

Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were expected to visit the eastern city of Ranchi later Wednesday to address another election rally.

Congress accuses India's dominant Hindu nationalists — widely tipped to top the polls but fall short of a clear majority — of sectarian policies and alleges it will overturn India's secular constitution. India has 120 million Muslims among a total population of 960 million.

Malawi Banda's true age revealed, possibly

BLANTYRE (AFP) — Malawi's late dictator Kamuzu Banda was 101 when he died in November and not in his 90s, the official Malawi News Agency said Wednesday, citing new research.

Banda's exact year of birth has been shrouded in confusion for years. The autocratic ruler, who led Malawi and indeed owned much of its assets, was ousted at the polls in 1994 after being forced to accept multi-party politics.

Katola Phiri, an opposition politician and elder of the Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP), citing church records, told a service in memory of Banda that he

was born in 1896, not 1906 as officially recognised.

The 1906 date was a distortion by a teacher named Hannock Msokera who gave missionaries the wrong year, Mr. Phiri explained, but he did not say why Mr. Msokera did so.

Mr. Phiri said church research showed that Banda, who studied medicine in Scotland and imposed virtually Victorian values on a long hermetically sealed southern African country, left Malawi for overseas at the age of 21, and not 13 as previously believed.

"For reasons best known to himself, Banda did not like history to be written while he was still

alive, but what I am giving you now is the true history of Banda," Mr. Phiri was quoted by the news agency as saying.

Mr. Phiri said Banda, who ruled the country for three decades from independence until his ouster at the polls after being forced to adopt a multi-party system, was born Kamukhwa Banda in 1896, but his illiterate parents later forgot the year.

Kamuzu was baptised in 1910 and named Akimu, but later changed his name to Hastings when he went to study at an American academy.

Mr. Phiri also discounted theories that Banda was not Malawian, but of black American origin.

U.S. 'toxic ship' exports to India spark Greenpeace protest

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Activists of environmental group Greenpeace demonstrated here Wednesday against U.S. ships containing toxic substances being sent to India to be broken up.

About 75 people, protesting outside the U.S. embassy, said ships containing asbestos and lead-based paints were broken up at the western Indian port of Alang in the state of Gujarat.

Greenpeace International spokesman Nityanand Jayaraman said on average one worker at the port died each day because of "abysmal" safety standards.

Mr. Jayaraman, who said

a memorandum was sent to the ambassador urging the United States to stop sending ships to Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, added: "As far as the U.S. is concerned, developing nations are the scavengers of the world with India heading the pack."

"Otherwise, why would they be sending their poisonous wastes to facilities with abysmal worker safety and environmental conditions?"

No one at the embassy was available for comment. According to media reports, about 300 ships came to India from around the globe in 1996 for breaking.

"Unofficial figures say

that at least one worker is killed everyday in the ship-breaking yards in Alang due to exposure to toxins and unsafe working conditions," Mr. Jayaraman said.

He said workers were exposed to asbestos, a cancer-inducing substance, and lead which was a "cumulative poison" affecting the central nervous system.

India's Supreme Court last May banned the import of hazardous chemicals.

But Mr. Jayaraman added: "Even after the court decision the United States remains the largest exporter of hazardous chemicals. It remains one of the few nations that has exported zinc ash."



Activists from the environmental group Greenpeace act out a short scene to protest the breaking up in India of U.S. ships containing toxic substances in front of the U.S. embassy (AFP photo)

S. Leone junta orders newspapers to register

FREETOWN (AFP) — The military government in Sierra Leone Wednesday ordered all newspapers to register by the end of January.

"All newspaper proprietors must register or re-register their media institutions to legitimise their operations," the Department of Information said.

The announcement was the second attempt by the junta to get newspapers registered since the military seized power on May 25.

Four months ago, a similar attempt was condemned both by the papers and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists which resolved not to recognise the regime.

The dozen or so newspapers currently in circulation reflect all shades of opinion regarding the junta and the ousted civilian government led by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Several proprietors told AFP they would wait until the deadline before making up their minds.

The Newspaper Amendment Act of 1980 obliges newspapers to register with the information ministry. Registration costs an initial \$2,000 and then \$1,000 annually.

Non-compliance is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and a jail term not exceeding 12 months.

The act also provides for authorities "to refuse or suspend or cancel a certificate of registration" and for the proprietor "to appeal to the High Court against the minister's decision."

China confirms invitation to U.N. rights chief

GENEVA (AFP) — China has officially extended an invitation to U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson, the U.N. said Wednesday.

China's permanent U.N. Ambassador Wu Jianmin handed a letter of invitation to Ms. Robinson at a meeting Tuesday, a statement said, adding that talks on appropriate dates will "now be under way."

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told his visiting British counterpart Robin Cook Monday that Beijing had issued an open-ended invitation for Ms. Robinson to visit China.

Ms. Robinson would be the first human rights commissioner to visit China on an official basis. Her predecessor, Jose Ayala-Lasso from Ecuador, had received an invitation from Beijing but left to take up the post of foreign minister in Quito before he could make the trip.

China last year again escaped official censure over its human rights record at the spring Human Rights Commission session in Geneva, as it has done since the military crackdown in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

A motion sponsored by Denmark seeking to criticise China for human rights abuses was defeated by a majority of votes by the 53-member commission.

China appears to have launched a fresh offensive to win over critics of its human rights policies following Beijing's signing of the U.N. International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights last year and its pledge to sign a twin agreement on civil and political rights in the near future.

Mr. Cook said he had raised 12 cases of imprisoned dissidents with Mr. Qian and with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, most notably the case of Wang Dan, a student activist during the Tiananmen Square incident.

15 Muslim rebels decapitated in southern Philippines battle

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine military forces Wednesday decapitated 15 Muslim rebels in a battle in the southern island of Mindanao.

The rebels were killed in a battle with government forces in the town of Marikina, a military spokesman said.

The rebels were part of a group of about 100 fighters who had been active in the area for several months.

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World News

15 Muslim rebels dead, 8 wounded in southern Philippines battle

BULDON, Philippines (AFP) — Fifteen Muslim rebels were killed and eight government troops wounded in renewed clashes that could threaten efforts to hold peace talks, officials said Wednesday.

Southern Philippines military commander Major General Joselin Nazareno said the 15 rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were killed in a barrage of army artillery fire Tuesday in the southern town of Buldon.

He said the attack was in retaliation for a mortar barrage from the MILF in which eight soldiers were wounded.

Major Roque Garingalao, spokesman of an army division based in Cotabato city near Buldon, accused the MILF of firing first on a military detachment on the perimeter of the front's main base, Camp Abubakar.

But MILF military chief Muhammad Murad said it was the army which drew first blood, firing 70 artillery rounds on the rebel position Tuesday alone.

He also denied any rebel deaths, saying the MILF inflicted an undetermined number of casualties on government forces.

"We also fired our mortars to let them know that we are ready to defend the camp," Mr. Murad said in an interview with Roman Catholic-run radio station in Cotabato city.

It was the biggest clash between the two sides since a massive army offensive in June 1997 in which they captured a major MILF base, Camp Rajamuda, in two weeks of fierce fighting.

At least 158 people, most of them rebels, were killed in that offensive, which was settled when the two sides signed a ceasefire in July. However, the implementing rules of that ceasefire were agreed upon only in October 1997.

Sporadic exchanges of mortar and artillery fire could be heard Wednesday, witnesses said. Military and rebel officials said there were no reports of new casualties or an advance by ground forces separated only by a river in the village of Upper Minabai.

Four Muslim guerrillas and a government militiaman were killed in a mortar and artillery exchange on Jan. 15.

Observers said the latest fighting could threaten current exploratory contacts that could lead to possible formal peace talks.

The talks aim to forge a political settlement of the MILF's 20-year armed struggle for an independent Muslim state in the main southern island of Mindanao, which this largely Roman Catholic nation's Muslim minority consider as their ancestral homeland.

"If these clashes will continue, the technical committee meeting will be affected," Mr. Murad said, referring to a meeting scheduled next month in the southern city of Marawi to set the agenda and a date for possible formal peace negotiations.

"We will boycott the meeting if the shelling will continue," Mr. Murad said as he accused the military of "provoking war."

Mr. Garingalao said that the MILF has been monitored digging fox holes since last week.



Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski leaves the federal courthouse in Sacramento, escorted by a United States marshal (Reuters photo)

Unabomber suspect declared mentally competent to stand trial

SACRAMENTO, California (AFP) — Theodore Kaczynski, the former university mathematics professor accused of being the so-called Unabomber, was declared mentally competent to stand trial for murder.

Both defence attorneys and prosecutors agreed to accept the conclusions of psychiatric expert Sally Johnson, who deemed him competent after interviewing the Harvard-educated Professor Kaczynski for 19 hours.

All but the cover page of Ms. Johnson's 47-page report has been sealed by the court, but sources who had access to the document said Ms. Johnson said Professor Kaczynski suffered from paranoid schizophrenia.

However, Ms. Johnson said that the suspect "isn't totally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings filed against him or to assist his attorneys in his own defence."

The 55-year-old Kaczynski faces a 10-count indictment for killing two Sacramento men and maiming two scientists. If convicted, he could face the death penalty. He faces a third murder charge in New Jersey.

Apparently motivated by a hatred of modern technology, the so-called Unabomber was blamed for 16 letter-bombs and other attacks with explosives between 1979 and 1995 that also left 23 people injured.

Professor Kaczynski has pleaded innocent to murder charges. The court rejected an earlier plea bargain that would have had him enter a plea of guilty in return for a sentence of life in prison.

Professor Kaczynski's psychiatric evaluation could lead to a new plea bargain. Legal experts said the government may accept the deal this time around.

U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell said he would rule Thursday whether Professor Kaczynski, who has tied the court proceedings in legal knots from the start of the trial on Jan. 5, is competent to serve as his own lawyer.

In a related development, Professor Kaczynski was also taken off suicide watch at the Sacramento County jail over the weekend after doctors determined he could safely be returned to a regular cell.

The precaution was taken Jan. 8 when Professor Kaczynski came to the courthouse with red marks on his neck and without underwear when he changed from his prison outfit into civilian clothes for his court appearance.

Authorities feared that he had unsuccessfully tried to hang himself with his underwear.

The development came after Professor Kaczynski tried to fire his attorneys because they wanted to portray him as mentally ill as part of their strategy to defend him. He demanded to be allowed to defend himself.

Professor Kaczynski was arrested in April 1996 at his Montana cabin where he had lived as a recluse for more than two decades. Authorities said they found numerous writings linking him to the bombings.

Military spark panic in Zimbabwe's riot-torn capital

HARARE (AFP) — The deployment of troops in Zimbabwe's riot-torn capital Harare caused widespread panic Wednesday as hundreds of people tried to flee the city centre by car and shops closed again, while the government met in emergency session.

Hundreds of drivers drove their vehicles onto the sidewalks or drove the wrong way down one-way streets in a bid to quit the city, while alarmed pedestrians ran in all directions.

The panic was prompted by the deployment of troops at a southern exit of the city.

Three military helicopters were maintaining a permanent watch over central Harare, where President Mugabe's government deployed troops Tuesday during a second day of food riots and ordered soldiers to

use live ammunition against looters.

The cabinet was Wednesday recalled from its recess for an unscheduled emergency meeting to discuss the crisis in the country sparked by the food riots, a presidential spokesman said.

"Yes the cabinet meeting is going on right now... to review the situation unfolding in the country," President Mugabe's press secretary George Charamba said.

The Home Affairs ministry would announce the cabinet position, he said.

Mr. Charamba also confirmed to AFP that President Mugabe was to attend a scheduled meeting of the politburo of his ruling ZANU-PF party after the cabinet session.

President Mugabe has threatened to impose a state of emergency should the troubles continue.

The latest wave of panic and street chaos in Harare lasted for about 20 minutes before order was restored, but shops started closing down again after relative calm in the morning, while staff left office buildings.

Witnesses earlier said that a group of soldiers deployed in the city heat up a party of shop owners and workers Wednesday as they attempted to clean up the mess left by looters.

Police on guard at the Chitungwiza shopping mall, which was razed in the riots, had just allowed shop employees and their bosses into the centre to clean up when the soldiers burst in, an AFP photographer said.

The soldiers beat some of the workers and shop owners with sjamborks (whips), and ordered others to do press-ups and then leave, said the photographer who was present.

Troops confiscated film from photographers and television crews who recorded the incident.

The rioting began Monday when people from working-class districts in the south began attacking shops in a protest against the rise in prices of basic foodstuffs such as maize flour.

The beleaguered government has already come under strong pressure from western donors over its controversial land reform programme taking white-owned farmland for black peasants, and food price rises have been presented as being related to this measure.

China wants UNESCO to approve 2 new World Heritage Sites

BEIJING (AFP) — China has asked UNESCO to add Beijing's Summer Palace and Temple of Heaven to its list of World Heritage sites, the official Xinhua news agency said Wednesday.

The two celebrated sites in the capital will be inspected by UNESCO experts next month, the agency said.

China is already home to 19 World Heritage sites, including the Great Wall and Beijing's Forbidden City.

The Summer Palace, built in the middle of the 18th century with the help of European Jesuits, was burned by an Anglo-French expeditionary force in 1860. It was rebuilt in 1886 and is the largest imperial park in the country, welcoming between 40 and 50 million visitors a year.

The Temple of Heaven was used by the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) emperors for their annual harvest prayers.

A senior Tanzanian foreign ministry official told AFP on telephone that the Burundian delegation was desperately looking towards the opportunity to lift the embargo.

"But we believe that the position of maintaining the sanctions adopted by the Great Lakes regional leaders during their meeting last September will remain in force until they are satisfied that Mr. Buyoya had gone far enough in creating conditions necessary for the restoration of peace, democracy and rule of law in Burundi," the official reiterated.

Mr. Ndayaye had earlier defeated Mr. Buyoya in the first democratic presidential elections since the country became independent from Belgian colonial rule in 1962.

The Tanzanian delegation to the workshop is led by Foreign Minister Jakaya Kikwete.

A memorial concert to celebrate the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, is to be held at the family estate where she is buried, a spokeswoman for her brother Earl Spencer announced Wednesday.

The June 27 concert of classical, pop and rock music will be staged at the family home of Althorp Park, 120 kilometres northwest of London.

Spokeswoman Shelley Anne Claircourt said the date is four days before the princess's birthday on July 1, when Althorp Park opens for two months to let the public view the island where she is buried.

China frees dissident Zhou Guoqiang

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese dissident lawyer Zhou Guoqiang has been freed after more than three years in a labour camp, friends said Wednesday.

Mr. Zhou, 39, a founder of the 1993 "Peace Charter," was expected to return to Beijing shortly after being released from the Shuanghe prison camp in northeastern Heilongjiang province Tuesday, a friend said in a telephone interview with AFP.

The friend said his wife, Wang Hui, went to the camp to collect him.

Mr. Zhou took part in the 1979 Democracy Wall movement as editor of the controversial Today magazine and was later detained for six months prior to the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, for organising labour strikes.

He went on to co-found the "Peace Charter" in 1993 with a handful of other dissidents working towards a more democratic China and was subsequently re-detained in early 1994 for inciting turmoil and disrupting social order.

In September of that year, he was sentenced to three years reform-through-labour, the maximum term that he can be handed down without a trial.

Prison authorities extended his sentence by one year after they said they had caught him trying to escape.

Veteran dissident Qin Yongmin — a fellow author of the Peace Charter — welcomed the release.

"I'm very happy to hear he has been released," he told AFP from his home in the central city of Wuhan. Mr. Qin, one of the most active of China's remaining dissidents at large, is defying police orders to leave the country.

Mr. Zhou's name figured on a list of 10 political prisoners that dissident Lin Xishu Tuesday urged President Jiang Zemin to free to mark the Chinese Lunar New Year, which is to be celebrated Jan. 28.

Mr. Lin's open letter called for a general amnesty for jailed dissidents on the holiday, the most important of the year in China.

A Beijing-based dissident, Wang Zhixin, Wednesday added his support to the appeal, issuing a statement saying that dissidents should be allowed to join their families "for a peaceful and happy Spring Festival," as the country is enjoying economic and social stability.

The traditional lunar new year is commonly referred to as "Spring Festival" in mainland China.

News of Mr. Zhou's release came a day after the parents of China's most prominent political prisoner, Wang Dan, said he could be moved to Beijing from a jail 500 kilometres away.

The head of Jinzhou prison, where Wang Dan has been held since the end of 1996, told him late last month that he was going to make a report to concerned departments to see if the dissident could be moved to a Beijing jail.

Mr. Wang's father said, "Wang Dan, 28, was handed an 11-year prison term in 1996 for 'supervision' after he had been held incognito for 14 months. He had already been jailed for four years following the Tiananmen crackdown."

Polish military units is under negotiation, the Romanian defence ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Ananiev, who has been on a visit to Romania since Tuesday, has met with President Emil Constantinescu and Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea and he was due to meet Orthodox Church Patriarch Teoctist before leaving Romania later Wednesday.

A joint Romanian-Hungarian force is due to be operational by the end of 1998, and a similar force including Romanian, Ukrainian and

with his family when a shaven-headed youth used a racial epithet in front of his young children. When he remonstrated with the man, he was attacked and racially abused by a group of mostly shaven-headed youths, he said.

"Your conduct reflected pack mentality and I'm satisfied that your actions were motivated by errant, misguided and unacceptable ideas of racial superiority," NZPA reported.

The victim had told the court he was walking on Christchurch's Esplanade

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The four, aged 23, 22, and two aged 17, showed little

reaction to their sentences. Two people were arrested outside the court Wednesday after Nazi signs and German slogan were shouted during Wednesday's sentencing.

The victim told Radio New Zealand Wednesday that he knew other black people in Christchurch who refrained from going out because they feared racist attacks.

The attack triggered public outrage at the time, and an anti-racist rally in Christchurch attracted over 1,000 people.

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The victim told Radio New Zealand Wednesday that he knew other black people in Christchurch who refrained from going out because they feared racist attacks.

The attack triggered public outrage at the time, and an anti-racist rally in Christchurch attracted over 1,000 people.

Application Form

Application Form

10

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Ministry of Finance will not reduce customs tariffs to 30% as previously planned

**** CONTRARY TO previous plans, the government will not reduce customs tariffs on all goods to 30 per cent, Finance Minister Suleiman Hafez has announced.** Noting that the economic adjustment programme can be amended, Mr. Hafez said the Ministry of Finance found that it cannot reduce customs tariffs on all goods at present, as planned in the programme which expires at the beginning of next year.

The minister indicated that the decision not to lower customs tariffs from 40 per cent to 30 per cent will be among the topics that Jordanian officials will discuss with a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at a later date this year. The delegation was scheduled to arrive in Amman early next month but the visit was postponed. The delegation aims at conducting a review and an evaluation of the Jordanian economy which posted positive results last year.

The government decided to cut customs tariffs to 40 per cent last year in accordance with the economic adjustment programme which also stipulates that the customs tariffs be cut further to 30 per cent in early 1998.

Mr. Hafez revealed that the Ministry of Planning, on behalf of the government, has started to lay down the broad lines of a national comprehensive plan to replace the economic adjustment programme in order to boost various economic sectors. The plan, which will be in line with the five-year development plan, aims at lowering the rate of indebtedness and supporting the trade balance among other measures that would strengthen the foundations of the national economy (Al Aswat).

Arab Bank regains full control of its subsidiary in Morocco

**** THE ARAB Bank regained its 100 per cent ownership of Arab Bank/Morocco after purchasing the 50 per cent equity previously held by the Moroccan government.** The deal was concluded following negotiations that have been going on with Rabat since April 1997. The deal was a step in the privatisation process that the Moroccan government is implementing towards opening up its economy and attracting capital and investment from outside.

Another deal expected in the future is for the Arab Bank to regain a full control over the Arab Tunisian Bank in light of the other privatisation process being carried out by the Tunisian government (Al Arab Al Yawm).

Middle East Investment Bank nears concluding deal with foreign investors

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Middle East Investment Bank is about to conclude a JD10 million deal with the French Societe Generale Bank and a Lebanese partner, in a bid to increase its capital from JD10 million to JD20 million in implementation of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) instructions, the bank's board chairman, Ali Mango, said Wednesday.

Department reminds non-residents to pay tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department (ITD) has reiterated that any amount of money paid to non-residents, and is sent abroad, is subject to a 10 per cent tax — as previously stipulated by the Income Tax Law, amended in 1996.

According to ITD Director General Mansur Haddadin, this comes as a reminder to those involved, "an awareness-raising statement that shows that the department is serious regarding the matter."

Jordanians are considered residents if they reside in the Kingdom for a period of 120 days every year. Non-Jordanians are regarded as residents if they reside in the Kingdom for a period of 183 days a year.

Those who have to pay the 10 per cent tax should submit an income assessment form to ITD, said Mr. Haddadin.

He added that a 1.5 per cent fine will be imposed on those who fail to pay on time.

Mr. Haddadin said a project to strengthen and upgrade the income tax system in Jordan is underway with a \$216,000 grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and \$530,000 from the government.

The project is aimed at introducing major changes in the processing and administration of income taxes, and encouraging adherence to the current income tax system, he said.

According to a UNDP statement published last year, because of limited manpower resources and inadequate computer hardware capacity of the ITD, it has been impossible for the government to ensure full compliance with existing tax legislation.

It added that income tax has contributed less than anticipated to the government's domestic revenues, hindering its ability to deliver public services such as health and education effectively.

A new computer hardware is now installed and works effectively in accessing relevant income data and monitoring taxpayer compliance, Mr. Haddadin said.

The UNDP statement said once formulated and put into operation, the new income tax administration is expected, by a conservative estimate, to result in an extra income tax revenue to the tune of more than \$100 million over the coming three to four years.

TONIGHT

GALLERIA 1 **GALLERIA 2**

ROMEO & JULIET **JACK**

2:00 / 6:30 / 8:30 / 10:45

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CA\$	ITL	HK\$	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8263	0.6143	1.4882	127.26	1.4430	1777.10	2.0660	6.1200
DE Mark	0.5478	1.0000	0.3360	0.6135	68.88	0.7987	883.10	1.1288	3.3487
GB Sterling	1.6278	2.9738	1.0000	2.4163	207.38	2.3489	2824.78	3.3610	0.8603
CH Franc	0.6733	1.2238	0.4131	1.0000	88.68	0.9709	1208.08	138.43	4.1179
JP Yen	0.0078	1.4338	0.4810	1.1688	1.0000	1.1327	14.10	161.68	4.8038
CA Dollar	0.6800	1.2748	0.4269	1.0423	1.13	1.0000	1284.78	1.4368	4.2981
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0167	0.3416	0.0828	1413.03	0.8028	1.148	1.4038	2.8715
NL Guilder	0.0067	0.8874	0.2963	0.7214	61.80	0.7907	872.81	1.148	2.8715
FR Franc	0.1634	0.2983	0.1001	0.2400	20.78	0.2357	33.83	33.8300	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAN	QAT	KUW	AED	LEB	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6408	0.3060	3.6730	1621.60	3.3070
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2898	0.8317	5.1361	4.4316	5.1808	2148.28	4.7910
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1890	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0810	0.98	405.85	0.9089
Bahrain Dinar	2.08	1.8807	0.9488	1.0000	0.96	0.8114	0.94	4034.70	0.9123
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1947	1.0301	1.0301	1.0000	0.8040	1.01	417.77	0.9332
Kuwait Dinar	3.2680	2.3178	12.2605	1.2324	11.90	12.01	12.01	4972.21	0.9332
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0211	0.9912	0.8033	1.00	414.10	0.9260
Lebanese P1000	0.66	0.4641	2.4688	0.2479	2.3937	0.2011	2.4148	1.0000	2.2337
Egyptian	0.2843	0.2087	1.1033	0.1110	1.0716	0.0900	1.0811	447.88	1.0000

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CA\$	ITL	HK\$	FRF
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.4872	0.1638	0.3962	33.8688	0.7987	883.10	1.1288	3.3487
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.49748	0.16726	0.4061	34.8961	0.7987	883.10	1.1288	3.3487
KUW Dinar	3.2680	5.87372	2.09844	4.86909	416.483	0.7987	883.10	1.1288	3.3487
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.484731	1.62373	3.84166	337.852	0.7987	883.10	1.1288	3.3487
CY Pound	1.8610	3.4008	1.1433	2.7857	237.058	0.7987	883.10	1.1288	3.3487

Currency Deposit Rates (Bld)									
Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
USD	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.57	8.60	USD	8.50	8.50	8.50
GBP	7.31	7.48	7.38	7.38	7.38	GBP	7.31	7.48	7.38
JPY	0.45	0.43	1.00	1.00	0.40	JPY	0.45	0.43	1.00
DEM	3.31	3.47	3.38	3.68	3.85	DEM	3.31	3.47	3.38
FRF	3.41	3.96	3.58	3.58	3.75	FRF	3.41	3.96	3.58
ITL	1.18	1.31	1.41	1.47	1.68	ITL	1.18	1.31	1.41
CHF	0.10	0.98	0.82	0.82	0.10	CHF	0.10	0.98	0.82

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Ch	Index	Value	Chng
New York	7811.08	-42.03	-0.78	7871.88	7798.18	7873.12	New York	7811.08	-42.03
DOW JONES	7811.08	-42.03	-0.78	7871.88	7798.18	7873.12	DOW JONES	7811.08	-42.03
S&P 500	972.63	-4.08	-0.42	978.8	971.37	978.8	S&P 500	972.63	-4.08
FT-SE 100	5272.3	-4.9	-0.11	5287.5	5230.5	5278.2	FT-SE 100	5272.3	-4.9
Nikkei 225	16884.42	-117.88	-0.70	16982.4	16765.4	16888.8	Nikkei 225	16884.42	-117.88
CAC 40	2886.11	-10.23	-0.34	2916.97	2886.07	2908.54	CAC 40	2886.11	-10.23
DAX	4282.84	-25.07	-0.58	4298.17	4287.34	4307.81	DAX	4282.84	-25.07

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar
GB Sterling	1.1814	1.1872	GB Sterling	1.1814	1.1872	GB Sterling	1.1814	1.1872	GB Sterling
DE Mark	0.3865	0.3874	DE Mark	0.3865	0.3874	DE Mark	0.3865	0.3874	DE Mark
CH Franc	0.4738	0.4763	CH Franc	0.4738	0.4763	CH Franc	0.4738	0.4763	CH Franc
FR Franc	0.1162	0.1168	FR Franc	0.1162	0.1168	FR Franc	0.1162	0.1168	FR Franc
JP Yen	0.0007	0.0008	JP Yen	0.0007	0.0008	JP Yen	0.0007	0.0008	JP Yen
NL Guilder	0.3421	0.3438	NL Guilder	0.3421	0.3438	NL Guilder	0.3421	0.3438	NL Guilder
IT Lira	0.382	0.384	IT Lira	0.382	0.384	IT Lira	0.382	0.384	IT Lira

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Australian Open

Venus rising as Sampras path to the final opens up

Moya, Philippoussis crash out

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Venus Williams beat sister Serena to establish herself as the rising women's star at the Australian Open on Wednesday as the fall of two more men's seeds opened up Pete Sampras' path to the final.

Defending champion Sampras surged into the third round with a quickfire 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 win over Italy's Davide Sanguinetti. But 1997 finalist Carlos Moya and home hero Mark Philippoussis were beaten, taking the number of ousted men's seeds to six.

They were in the same section of the draw as Sampras, winner of two previous Australian Opens, who now will not meet another seed until the semi-finals.

Venus Williams, 17, triumphed over her 16-year-old sister 7-6, 6-1 in an 87-minute first professional battle between two of the women expected to dominate tennis for the next decade.

The much-awaited showdown ended with the Williams bowing together to centre court fans and walking off hand-in-hand. Venus saved her apology for the dressing room.

"I told her 'I am sorry to take you out. Let's make sure next time we play in a final and we can play for a title,'" Venus said.

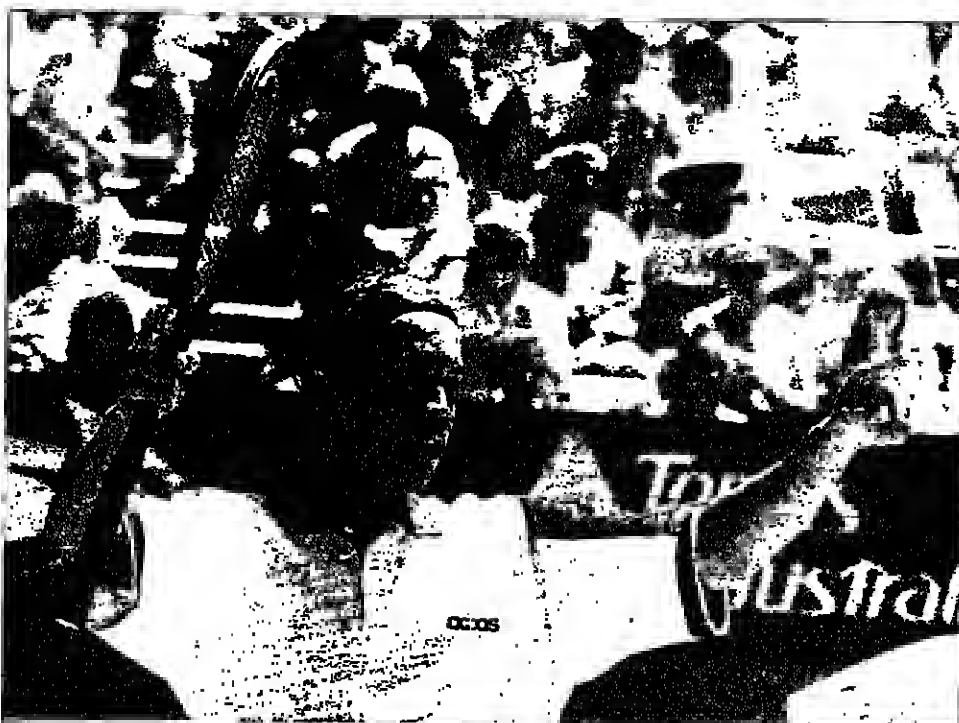
"It was not funny eliminating my sister, but I have to be tough."

"Serena hates to lose and her reputation is that she doesn't lose to anyone twice. So I am definitely going to have to practice secretly if I want to win next time as well."

Despite the expectations, the match failed to reach any heights. There were eight breaks of serve in the first set and both grimaced and smashed their rackets to the ground in frustration.

"I have never had that many double faults in my life, not even when I was younger," Serena said.

Mirjana Lucic, the youngest player in professional tennis, lost 7-5, 6-4 to



Hicham Arazi of Morocco points to the crowd after defeating Mark Philippoussis of Australia during their second round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Arazi defeated Philippoussis in five sets 1-6 6-2 4-6 6-1 9-7 (Reuters photo)



World No. 1 and defending champion Pete Sampras of the U.S. reaches for a backhand during his second round match against Italy's Davide Sanguinetti at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Sampras won in straight sets 6-2 6-1 6-2 (Reuters photo)

No. 4 seed and fellow Croat, Iva Majoli. She hinted at a conspiracy against her when she accused the umpire of deliberately overruling line calls that were good.

"Every game there were balls in and they called them out. 'Everyone could see they were in,' said the 15-year-old.

"The chair umpire was

overruling everything. The lineperson called it good and the umpire called it out." Lucic estimated there were around 15 dubious calls and hinted that it could

be linked to legal action taken so she could play on the women's tour.

Majoli did not get involved in the row but said her young compatriot still had "a lot to learn."

Morocco's Hicham Arazi outgunned Australian 'Scud' Philippoussis, the 15th seed, 1-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 9-7 in one of the performances of the day.

The diminutive Moroccan No. 1 surprised even himself by firing down 21 aces against 19 for Philippoussis, who was routed in front of his home-town fans.

But Australia discovered a new hero in Richard Fromberg who beat Spanish ace Moya 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4. Moya lost in last year's final to Sampras.

Moya, the fairy tale of last year's Open and the biggest casualty so far, crashed out in two hours 31 minutes and then said he would try to forget his outstanding 1997.

The Spaniard, who beat Boris Becker, Jonas Bjorkman and Michael Chang on the way to last year's Australian Open final, said: "I had great experiences last year but I want to forget it as soon as possible. Now I will have to live with my new ranking which will be 18 or 20."

Other top ranked players lived dangerously before getting through.

Men's fourth seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden was two sets and a break down to Wayne Ferreira of South Africa but performed a great escape and won 6-7, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

But sixth seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic beat Australian Scott Draper 7-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's second seed Lindsay Davenport of the United States saved six match points before knocking out Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, 2-6, 6-0, 9-7.

Eighth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain beat Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands and ninth seed Sandrine Testud of France downed German Jana Kandarr.



Croatia's Iva Majoli hits a forehand during her second round win over compatriot Mirjana Lucic at the Australian Open in Melbourne. Majoli won in straight sets 7-5 6-4 (Reuters photo)



Venus Williams (L) raises her sister Serena's hand as they salute the crowd following their second round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Venus defeated her younger sister 7-6 6-1 (Reuters photo)



Petr Korda of the Czech Republic plays a backhand during his second round win over Australia's Scott Draper at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Korda won in straight sets 7-6 6-3 6-3 (Reuters photo)

Benarbia stunner holds Marseille

PARIS (AFP) — A stunning 25 yard freekick by Monaco playmaker Ali Benarbia sealed a 1-1 draw for 10 man Monaco against Marseille in the Riviera derby on Tuesday.

However, their draw meant they made no ground up on pacesetters Metz who were also held 1-1 by relegation strugglers Cannes — Metz lead Paris Saint Germain, who play Wednesday, by two points while Monaco are third four points in arrears with Marseille a further point behind.

The 29-year-old Benarbia brought the French champions, who had French defender Sylvain Legwioski sent off for a second bookable

offence in the 81st minute, a welcome point after they had lost two of their last three matches, and only scraped home 2-1 in extra-time over part-timers Dijon in a Cup match at the weekend.

The Algerian midfielder directed his freekick perfectly beyond Marseille's German keeper Andreas Kopke to equalise. Olivier Echouafni's 45th minute header for the 1993 European Cup winners. Marseille coach Roland Courbis said afterwards: "It's always tough to concede a goal three minutes from the end of a match through a 25-yard freekick against a side reduced to 10 men."

But we expected a

close match and I can't complain about my team's performance." Metz's French international Robert Pires, who is a target for English Premiership side Newcastle, gave his side a 41st minute lead with a header from Stephane Rondalae's cross.

However, Cannes, who are unbeaten in their last three league matches including a well deserved 1-0 win over Monaco, hit back strongly in the second-half but had to wait till four minutes from the end when Yao Senaya's cross was converted by David Mazzoncini.

Juventus through to Italian Cup semis

TURIN (AFP) — Juventus booked their place in the Italian Cup semi-finals here on Tuesday night, after the champions ground out a 0-0 draw with Fiorentina.

The away goals rule saw the home side through after having rallied from 2-0 down to a 2-2 draw in Florence a fortnight ago.

Juventus had the lion's share of possession in a tense first half, while Fiorentina did little more than soak up the pressure. Filippo Inzaghi, who twice came close in the opening 45 minutes, then hit the crossbar within a few minutes of the re-start as the league champions continued to dictate the pace.

Fiorentina's new Brazilian striker making a promising full debut, Inzaghi should have opened the scoring in the 68th minute, but Fiorentina's reserve goalkeeper Valerio Fiori dived at the Juventus striker's feet to block the shot from point-blank range.

Ten minutes later, Inzaghi somehow failed to connect for a shot from just outside the six-yard box. And Juventus nearly paid dearly for the misses in the closing minutes.

Substitute Luis Oliveira galloped through on the break and fed the ball wide for Edmundo, only for Juventus' Uruguayan defender Paolo Mouttero to intercept just as the Brazilian was about to lash the ball home. Juventus now face either Lazio or AS Roma for a place in the final.

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	THE PEACEMAKER	George Clooney Nicole Kidman .. in THE PEACEMAKER	SCREAM Shows: 8:30, 10:30	Nadya Al Jundi, Ahmad Bedel & Nahla Salameh... in RIDING HIGH Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:30	ABDOUN ROBIN WILLIAMS ... IN JACK	ABDOUN ROME + JULIET	NOW ON DAILY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas For reservations call: 640155, 625155
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Newcastle United striker Alan Shearer (R) is tackled by Liverpool defender Phil Babb at Anfield, January 20. The match ended 1-0 to Liverpool with a goal from Michael Owen (Reuters photo)

Owen's goal earns Liverpool win

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Michael Owen's superb early goal earned Liverpool a 1-0 win over Newcastle here on Tuesday, propelling the Merseysiders up a place to third in the Premiership. The brilliant young striker chased Jason McAteer's pass before firing in a stunning drive off the underside of the bar for his 12th goal of the season.

While starlet Owen was on target, England striker Alan Shearer came off the bench for his second successive game as substitute after his return from injury. Even though Newcastle did have the ball in the net once in the first half, they had to need a fully fit Shearer.

This was the third meeting between the two in 23 days with Liverpool winning the first two. Liverpool manager Roy Evans said afterwards: "It was a hard game for us, not a classic, and we had to dig deep. And we showed we are capable of doing that."

Newcastle certainly put the pressure on and we had to stand up to it. Sometimes games are not about being able to play but about being able to dig deep. "It's important when you are 1-0 up not to concede one and we stood our ground." And on Owen's match winner, he added simply: "It was a great goal."

And victory by two clear goals would have put them into second spot in the Premiership ahead of Blackburn. Instead, Liverpool are level on points with Blackburn and five points behind Manchester United. Newcastle were without the suspended Darren Peacock and David Batty and the injured pair Philippe Albert and Steve Howey.

John Barnes, playing his first game back at Anfield since his August free transfer, got a rousing reception from the Kop and a standing ovation from the fans who idolised him for a decade.

Liverpool were unchanged from the side that drew 0-0 at Leicester on Saturday. Michael Owen surviving a scare after picking up a leg injury in the Filbert Street clash.

Aaron Hughes came in to do the same man marking job he had at St James' Park in the recent League Cup tie, while the Georgies had Stuart Pearce in the centre of a back three.

Newcastle strung nine men across the park from the off, and were subjected to a fearsome barrage by Liverpool.

Dalglish's team barely got a touch in this deluge, and Liverpool created one glorious seventh minute chance.

Steve McManaman, the subject of more Barcelona transfer speculation on the eve of the game — denied by player and club — sent Paul Ince into the box.

The cross was met by Oyvind Leonardsen six yards out and Shaka Hislop produced a brilliant reflex save with Robbie Fowler putting the loose ball over the bar. But after 17 minutes Liverpool were deservedly ahead. Ince lost possession with an ambitious backheel on the edge of the box. But he chased after Jon Dahl Tomasson and won it back with a fierce tackle. Although it was from behind, he took the ball cleanly with referee Graham Barber only feet away. Jason McAteer fed the ball out to Owen, who chested it on and lashed home a stunning drive off the underside of the bar.

Newcastle started the second half bristling with intent and their fans were soon chanting for Shearer's introduction. They finally got their way after 60 minutes, with the England captain replacing Barnes.

Liverpool had a wonderful chance to make it 2-0 when Fowler led McManaman on a flying break down the right. When the winger pulled the ball back for Fowler, he scooped the ball over from a great position. Fowler was being goaded by "greedy" chants from the visiting fans and had generally looked out of touch.

Another Pearce freekick after 64 minutes flashed through the wall and keeper David James fumbled again, but this time he was able to retrieve the situation. Hislop saved well from a Leonardsen drive and then Fowler cracked a shot off Steve Watson for corner after McManaman had set him up. From the flagkick, Jamie Redknapp curled a 20-yarder over the angle. But Liverpool hung on for a deserved victory.

Sydney hosts biggest swim meet before Olympics

SYDNEY (AFP) — The biggest swimming meet in Sydney's history got off to a flying start Wednesday in what is seen here as a dummy run for the 2000 Olympics.

The 38 nations and 300 swimmers here for the two-day world cup shortcourse swimming series made it the biggest gathering ever for a short course meet and the biggest international prior to the 2000 Games.

There was no doubt many fans were here to see Michael Klim and Alexander Popov dual in a rematch of their long course world championship final and the pair didn't disappoint.

They went head to head in a closely fought 100m freestyle with the Russian pipping his training partner in a time of 47.46.

Klim, who has had to fight off hordes of screaming teenage fans since he won seven medals, including four gold, in Perth, was philosophical about his time of 47.69.

"I'm not too tired and I'm swimming pretty fast. I'm still enjoying it and I achieved what I wanted to achieve last week so losing here does not really worry me."

German powerhouse Mark Warnecke is another swimmer in prime form after demolishing the field in the 50m breaststroke. However, he was disappointed to only equal his own world record of 26.97.

Sydney organisers increase drug-testing budget

SYDNEY (AFP) — Organisers of the Sydney 2000 Olympics said Tuesday they will increase their drug-testing budget following the furore over Chinese attempts to smuggle illegal growth hormones during the world swimming championships.

Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) chief executive Sandy Hollway said the move would allow blood tests to be administered for human growth hormones, if a reliable method of testing is discovered.

SOCOG now only budgets for urine tests, which cannot detect growth hormones.

"It is an expensive process but the money's got to be spent," he told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

"It's probably more important than a number of other things." The move follows the banning of two Chinese team members for bringing 13 vials of undiluted growth hormones into the country during the world swimming championships in Perth earlier this month.

Four other Chinese swimmers tested positive for the banned substance Triamterene, a diuretic, which medical experts say is a masking agent for anabolic steroid use.

The doping scandal and the bureaucratic bumbling that followed overshadowed the championships, something SOCOG officials are only too aware of. They are determined to prevent a repeat when the eyes of the world will be on Sydney.

SOCOG expects to do approximately 2,000 drug tests — at a cost of 800,000 Australian dollars (\$536,000) — during the Games, involving all medalists and some random tests.

"Unless there is integrity in the sports and confidence in the integrity, then the Olympics are nothing," Hollway said.

There is currently no fail-safe test for human growth hormone, or for erythropoietin (EPO), which increases red blood cells and occurs naturally in the body, making them difficult to detect.

But International Olympic Committee member Phil Cules said in Perth he was confident a reliable test would be in place by the 2000 Games.

"Research is being carried out. We are spending a lot of money funding experts around the world. We will achieve that target."

Hollway said SOCOG had budgeted to set up the infrastructure, the venues, the volunteers and the lab services to do urine tests for the Games but not for blood tests.

"The slight qualification now ... is that there is a lot of research being done on the human growth hormone and a test for it."

"Without prejudging that research, if it turned out that a solution required the collection of blood samples that were in addition to the urine testing, then that would be a more expensive proposition and we are doing some contingency planning for that."

On another matter, Hollway said construction of the biggest stadium in Olympic history at Homebush, in Sydney's west, was on time and on budget.

He said a series of test events would be carried out in the lead-up to 2000 "to make sure systems from volunteer deployment to technology are functioning as they should."

"I think there's a lot of merit in our deliberately trying to put pressure on the system in advance of the pressure we'll hit at the Olympics."

The Olympic Park's Aquatic Centre will receive its first test this week when it hosts the World Cup shortcourse swimming meet, featuring 300 competitors from 40 countries. The 2000 Olympics will be staged from September 15 to October 1.

The 2000 Paralympic Games are scheduled to run from October 14 to October 24.

SCOREBOARD			
NBA			
Atlanta	103	Milwaukee	93
Portland	86	Cleveland	84
Dallas	107	Seattle	98
Vancouver	88	Denver	77
Phoenix	87	Golden State	69
NHL			
Pittsburgh	0	Ottawa	0 (OT)
New Jersey	3	Detroit	1
NY Rangers	3	St Louis	1
Philadelphia	3	Buffalo	0
Chicago	5	NY Islanders	2
Edmonton	6	Phoenix	2
Los Angeles	4	Calgary	3
Scottish League			
Second Division			
Queen of South	0	Stenhousemuir	1
English FA Cup Third-round replay			
Reading	2	Cheltenham	1
Third Division			
Scarborough	4	Torquay	1
Colchester	2	Cardiff	1
Notts County	1	Hull	0
Macclesfield	2	Scunthorpe	0
Exeter	0	Barnet	0
English Premiership			
Liverpool	1	Newcastle	0
Italian Cup			
Juventus	0	Fiorentina	0
(2-2 on aggregate. Juventus qualify on away goals rule)			

Sainz wins Monte Carlo

MONACO (AFP) — Carlos Sainz, driving a Toyota Corolla WRC, won the Monte Carlo rally, first round in the world championship, on Wednesday.

The Spaniard's third win here, after his triumphs in 1991 and 1995, equaled the rally record of 21 world championship wins held by Finland's four-times world champion Juha Kankkunen.

Kankkunen, in a Ford Escort WRC, finished runner-up, ahead of Scotland's Colin McRae in a Subaru Impreza WRC.

Sainz took over the lead after dual world champion Tommi Makinen of Finland crashed on Tuesday's first special.

Makinen, just recovered from pneumonia, made the wrong choice of tyres and skidded on concealed ice.

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Announcement
JTV
On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, Jordan Television is holding a contest for best logo design for this special occasion. The winning logo will be chosen by a committee from Jordan Television, and the winner will receive acknowledgment on television and also will receive a prize.
Contest requirements:
1- Colour design printed on A4 paper.
2- Story board for a Full animation sequence.
Designs to be delivered to Marketing & Commercial Advertising Department, Jabal Amman - 2nd circle Tel # 642211 & 642212.
Deadline for receiving the designs is Feb. 15, 1998

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSH
CHOOSE THE BETTER LINE
Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ A 8
♥ A 4 3
♦ 10 9 5 3
♣ A J 8 2
WEST
♠ J 7 6 4
♥ 9
♦ K Q J 6
♣ 10 8 5 3
EAST
♠ Q 10 3
♥ Q J 5
♦ 9 8 7 4 2
♣ Q 9 4
SOUTH
♠ K 9 5 2
♥ K 10 8 7 8 2
♦ A
♣ K 7
The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♥ Pass 4NT Pass
5♣ Pass 5♥ Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣
South has two reasonable lines to lead the six heart knave. What are they? Which of the two is superior?
While we are committed to the principle that opener is allowed to raise responder's major with only three-card support, that only holds true if opener has no better bid. With a stopper in every suit and a balanced hand we consider four diamonds headed by 10 9 as a stopper in depth. We would prefer a rebid of one no trump by North. That would probably have made it much more difficult for North-South to reach the excellent heart slam, so who are we to quarrel with success?
After West leads the king of diamonds, what are declarer's chances?
One line is to hope that trumps divide evenly. Cash the two top hearts and, if both defenders follow, you can ruff a spade and concede only a spade trick. If trumps turn out to be 3-1 and you have a sure trump loser, you can still ruff a spade and need a successful club finesse to land your slam.
The other line is to draw only one round of trumps with the ace. If spades are 4-3, the slam is cold. You can ruff two spades to dummy and, even if a defender overruffs the fourth spade, the trump is your only loser. This line also succeeds if spades break 5-2 and the defender with the long spades also holds the three hearts or if West has the trump length. If the third spade is overruffed by East, and the table's last trump is drawn, you can still fall back on the club finesse.
Obviously, the second line is by far the stronger of the two.

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Forty-three die as Algeria carnage persists — papers

ALGIERS (R) — Forty-three people, including two old villagers unable to run fast enough to escape attacking gunmen, were killed in the latest violence reported by Algerian newspapers on Wednesday.

The reports on the fresh killings, one day after the end of a visit by European Union junior ministers to discuss the massacres, underscored the brutality of the conflict in Algeria.

More than 1,200 civilians have been killed in massacres, bombings and other attacks since the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan on Dec. 30.

The European Union's 24-hour fact-finding mission succeeded in opening a dialogue with the Algerian government but failed to gain permission for a United Nations human rights investigation into the massacres.

Nine civilians were killed in two bomb attacks in Algiers and the neighbouring coastal town of Zeralda on Tuesday, *Liberte* and *La Tribune* newspapers said.

The Zeralda bomb killed seven people, including two children, as it ripped through

a market in the town, 15 kilometres west of Algiers, said *Liberte*.

Two civilians died in another bomb blast on a bus about three hours earlier in the Ben Aknoun district in Algiers, said *La Tribune*.

More than 60 people were wounded in the two bomb attacks, the newspapers said. The authorities gave a toll of four dead and 52 wounded in the two bombings.

Attackers cut the throats of seven members of one family at Ben Adouan, a remote hamlet in the southwestern province of Saida, overnight Sunday-Monday, said *El Watan*.

The newspaper said the attackers were executing a *fatwa* [Islamic order] handed down by a local Islamist preacher named As Rafas Haddj, but gave no more details.

About 30 attackers cut the throats of two 60-year-old villagers in Zouabria hamlet in Chlef province, west of Algiers, overnight Monday-Tuesday, said *Liberte*.

The two victims could not run fast enough to keep up with fellow villagers fleeing the assailants, who also stole

the village cattle and looted houses, it said.

In Bouira province, east of Algiers, where at least 11 villagers were killed early this month, a deputy mayor was killed on Tuesday in the Aomar area, *Liberte* said but gave no details.

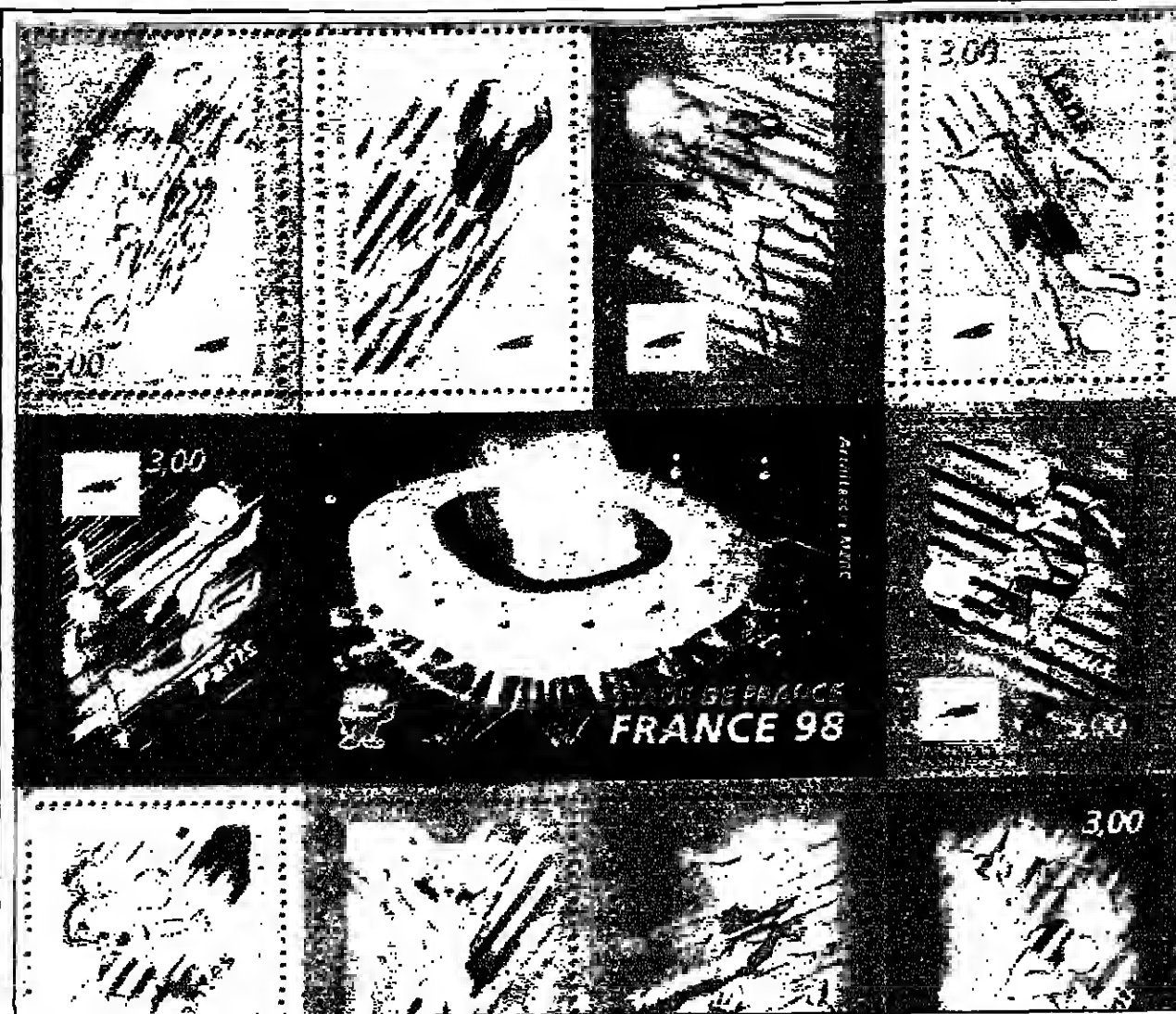
Troops hunting gunmen who carried out a massacre last week found the bodies of three girls who had been killed and mutilated near Beni Aissa mountain, about 25 kilometres south of Algiers, said *El Watan*.

The soldiers found the bodies by following a trail of fresh blood after killing 16 rebels in an attack on a rebel stronghold in Beni Aissa, it said.

The girls were among more than 20 women abducted by about 130 gunmen after the massacre of more than 100 villagers at Sidi Hamed hamlet, south of Algiers, a week ago, *El Watan* said.

Security forces clashed with gunmen in the working-class Belouizdad district of central Algiers, killing five of them, said *La Tribune*.

More than 65,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since early 1992.



WORLD CUP '98 STAMPS: French post presents Tuesday in Paris the 10 stamps for the upcoming 1998 World Soccer Cup scheduled all over France next June/July. The 3 French franc stamps (50 cents) represents clockwise: Paris, Saint-Etienne, Lyon, Montpellier, Lens, Bordeaux, Saint-Denis, Toulouse, Marseille, Nantes, and in the centre the Stade de France. The stamps designed by French artist Louis Briat will be on sale all over France in two days (AP photo)

EU mission disappointed at Algeria's refusal to allow meetings with survivors, humanitarian aid

VIENNA (AFP) — Austria's junior foreign minister, a member of the European Union delegation to Algeria, expressed disappointment Wednesday at Algeria's refusal to allow the mission to meet massacre survivors.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner told reporters that the EU delegation was "very disappointed" that Algeria had declined all offers of humanitarian assistance after a fresh violence in the past three weeks claimed as many as 1,500 lives.

The main goal of the visit was to start a political dialogue with the Algerian government,

"and we succeeded," she said, adding that the delegation also had met with the legal opposition and publishers of the country's four largest newspapers.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to visit the injured or survivors from the various catastrophes. I really wanted to talk to children and women," Ms. Ferrero-Waldner said.

Algerian authorities "said this was impossible for security and scheduling reasons," she said.

Although Algeria refused to allow a U.N. special rapporteur on human rights to visit,

"the government is prepared to answer questions from the U.N. human rights commission," she said. "They say they have nothing to hide."

Algeria said it had no need of humanitarian assistance at this time, although such aid would have enabled Europeans to demonstrate their solidarity with Algerians, according to Ms. Ferrero-Waldner.

The delegation, which is to report on its mission on Jan. 26, also included the junior foreign ministers of Britain and Luxembourg, Derek Faichett and Georges Wohlfart, accompanied by

European Commission Vice President Manuel Marín.

Their brief visit coincided with two murderous bomb attacks. A blast on a bus in the Algiers district of Ben Aknoun killed one person and injured 23, the government said.

A second blast, in the western coastal town of Zeralda, killed as many as seven and wounded dozens, independent newspapers reported Wednesday. The government put the toll at three dead and 30 wounded.

Algeria has said that Islamists were behind the violence.

Pope on long-delayed journey 'to bless the people of Cuba'

HAVANA (AP) — Pope John Paul II, "messenger of truth and hope," set out Wednesday on a historic pilgrimage to Cuba, land of hardship, embattled faith and an ageing, struggling revolution.

Long delayed, much anticipated, the visit by the ailing pontiff to this Caribbean island may help set a new course for the Cuban church, if not for Fidel Castro's communist government.

Even before touching down here, Wednesday afternoon, John Paul addressed some contentious issues surrounding his visit, telling reporters on the papal plane he hoped for more respect for human rights in communist Cuba, and for a "change" in the U.S. economic embargo.

But no matter what else his visit brings, said Orquidea Mesa, one pious parishioner

here, "the Pope will bless the people of Cuba" — 11 million who for four decades have suffered through one of the world's longest-running political showdowns.

As the Pope flew across the Atlantic on Wednesday, Cuba's government worked non-stop to make Cuba's welcome a memorable one.

Havana workers had the afternoon off on a sunny 26-degrees Celsius day. In neighborhoods and workplaces, Cubans were organized to be bused to points along the Pope's route from the airport. The Cuban president himself, die-hard Marxist-Leninist, urged people to turn out for the island's first papal visit ever.

"Sure, I'll be down at 15th and Paseo to see him," postman Jorge Luis Jimenez, 30, said before his morning

rounds. "Everybody will be out, even the ones who aren't really believers."

Communist Party workers joined church volunteers in tacking the Pope's portrait and "messenger" slogan to palm trees, telephone poles and even the backs of bicycle cabs across town. One was even spotted on the national capitol, where Castro's revolutionaries once declared Cuba an atheist nation.

In an instant, Havana had become a city of startling contrasts — starkness of all the scene at the hallowed Plaza of the Revolution, where the papal procession route passed towering rival images of Christ and of revolutionary hero Che Guevara.

"Jesus Christ, in you I trust," declares the one, "Until victory, forever!" the other.

Oil spill prompts UAE promise of action on Iraqi oil smuggling

DUBAI (AFP) — A new oil spill in the northern Gulf has driven the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to vow to crack down on Iraqi oil smuggling, and recognise a problem critics say it has long been turning a blind eye to.

A UAE minister acknowledged for the first time Sunday that "smuggling ... over the past few days has led to environmental catastrophe."

Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, was commenting on an oil spill which washed over most of the emirates' coastline two weeks ago when a barge carrying Iraqi oil in violation of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad went down in bad weather off Sharjah.

"Smuggling tarnishes the image and the prestige of the emirates," he told the official WAM news agency.

He said a special committee had been set up last year to confiscate smugglers' ships and sell their cargo, with the proceeds being paid to a special U.N. fund. Six vessels have already been confiscated, he said.

Warship commanders of the multinational force patrolling the Gulf had complained that ships intercepted with illegal Iraqi cargoes and diverted to UAE ports had been promptly released by the port authorities.

The smugglers' route takes

them from Iraq through Iranian national waters, according to the U.N. Iran has repeatedly denied the charges made by the U.N. Sanctions Committee and the United States over the past years.

Traders say that once the ships come abreast of Oman or the UAE, the cargo is transferred in international waters onto ships bound for the Indian subcontinent or onto barges headed for UAE ports where it is sold as Iranian oil.

Sheikh Hamdan's admission came as a clean-up operation continued along the coasts and on the islands off the northern Emirates, to limit the damage of an oil spill created by a barge which sank on Jan. 7 with 11,000 tons of crude oil.

The oil washed up on the coasts of four of the UAE's seven emirates, killing wildlife and forcing two desalination plants to temporarily suspend operation.

The oil slick, the second in six months, provoked public outrage. Newspapers, which have avoided printing stories about the UAE-based smugglers, angrily but cautiously denounced "those who seek only their own interests and high profits."

When another barge carrying 5,000 tonnes of fuel began to leak and had to be towed into Sharjah, the UAE's federal assembly, an appointed consultative body, called on the government to

take measures against further spills.

And for the first time, coast-guard officials were willing to leak the name of the Iraqi businessman running the company which owned the barge and of its emirati sponsors.

Oil smuggling was already rumoured to be the cause of an oil spill in July, when a barge carrying 5,000 tonnes of diesel sank in heavy weather off Sharjah.

"Some ship owners are converting their cargo vessels into oil tankers to smuggle cheap fuel from Iraq. They claim it is Iranian petrol but many of them who were seized have confessed they were carrying Iraqi fuel," a coast-guard official from Ras Al Khaimah said.

Shipping sources explain that in order to cut their costs, brokers use ageing barges and load them beyond their normal capacity, making them highly vulnerable to heavy weather.

The rising concern over the rogue oil barges comes as the multi-national naval force imposing the embargo on Baghdad has seized a mounting number of ships seeking to smuggle Iraqi oil through the Gulf. "During the last 30 days, the multi-national force intercepted three boats, two carrying fuel and one diesel," a naval officer with the joint U.S., British and Canadian force told AFP.

Khatami, Iraqi FM discuss improving post-war ties

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and Iraqi Foreign Minister Moqtada Saïd Al Sahhaf met here Wednesday to discuss obstacles that continue to block normalisation of ties nine years after their 1980-88 war.

Mr. Khatami expressed hope that with "good will on both sides, the problems will be resolved," the official IRNA news agency said.

Mr. Sahhaf, who arrived in Tehran late Friday, briefed Mr. Khatami on the situation in Iraq and the "progress in Iraq-U.N. relations," IRNA said.

Those relations have been in crisis, with Iraq barring an American-led team of U.N. weapons inspectors from carrying out their work and refusing all inspectors access to presidential sites.

The Iraqi foreign minister had been due to leave Iran in a month, and no news conference has been arranged.

He has met only once since his arrival with his Iranian counterpart, Kamal Kharazi. Mr. Kharazi said last Thursday that Iraq was seeking Iranian support for a lifting of the economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The two countries agreed Monday to set up two joint commissions to tackle obstacles to the normalisation of ties, one will look into the fate of prisoners of the war and search for those missing in action and the other will explore expanding trade and pilgrimage links.

Turkish finance ministry to probe Welfare assets

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish cabinet has asked the finance ministry to investigate the assets of the Welfare Party, the first concrete step in carrying out a court ban on the Islamists.

"The cabinet has decided that the finance ministry will carry out the process of eliminating the Welfare Party's assets," the Wednesday edition of Turkey's official Gazette said.

The constitutional court on Friday banned Welfare on charges of threatening the secularist constitution and threw veteran Islamist leader Necmettin Erbakan out of parliament.

The court ruling does not come into force until the court presents a full written verdict, expected in around two weeks. The party's assets will automatically be seized when the final verdict is released but

EU 'regrets' decision to ban Welfare

LONDON (AFP) — Britain, acting as European Union president, on Tuesday said it noted "with regret" the decision of the Turkish Constitutional Court to outlaw the Islamist Welfare Party. "The EU is concerned at the implications for democratic pluralism and freedom of expression and hopes that Turkey will make clear its continuing commitment to these fundamental democratic principles," said a spokesman.

The attorney-general said last week that an initial legal probe revealed Welfare had hardly any registered assets despite its standing as the country's biggest party.

Mr. Erbakan, Turkey's first Islamist prime minister, was forced from power last year in an anti-Islamist campaign inspired by the secularist army.

The military-dominated national security council, which played a leading role in toppling Mr. Erbakan, is to

hold a regular monthly meeting on Thursday. The Turkish press said the council would discuss the court ban.

Turkey's influential security apparatus has jailed Welfare mayors and shut down illegal Koranic courses since the Islamists fell from power.

The Sabah newspaper quoted Turkish Interior Minister Murat Basoglu as saying the Islamist mayors of Istanbul and Ankara were among 223 local government officials under investigation, mostly for alleged improper use of office.

Ciller facing new slush fund charges

ANKARA (AFP) — Former Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has been accused of taking money from a slush fund to pay Syrian special services to eliminate a Kurdish separatist leader, the daily *Radikal* reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said the allegations were contained in a report handed last week to Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, which also disclosed the existence of underground ultra-nationalist groups used for several operations at home and abroad.

While premier in 1994, Ms. Ciller reportedly ordered a \$10 million payment to Syria's Mukhabarat intelligence service to "liquidate" the head of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan.

Mukhabarat failed to respect the terms of the agreement, however, and Mr. Ocalan escaped assassination, the report said.

Mr. Ocalan has lived in Damascus or in the Syrian-dominated Bekaa plain of Lebanon since the early 1990s. Turkish intelligence reports indicated.

The PKK began an armed rebellion against Ankara in 1984 in order to set up an independent Kurdish state in the southeast along the borders with Syria, Iraq and Iran. More than 28,000 people have died

in clashes.

The latest report was related to the so-called Susurluk affair which came to light in November 1996 after a former ultra-nationalist militant and a high-ranking policeman were killed and a politician was injured in a road accident near Susurluk. The fact that the three were together was interpreted at the time as proof of close ties between the police, the mafia and some politicians.

Last Friday, a court began legal proceedings against Ms. Ciller for abuse of secret funds. If the National Assembly lifts Ms. Ciller's immunity, she would face trial before the constitutional court.

Cindy Crawford and Chirac vie for Indian limelight

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Two figures will be competing for the Indian limelight this week. One will be selling a country, the other luxury watches. French President Jacques Chirac and supermodel Cindy Crawford could well run into each other. Chirac, on a three-day state visit, will fly to New Delhi for a Sunday meeting with political leaders at the Taj Palace Hotel — where Crawford is also staying. She is due to take part in a promotional event on Sunday night, feted by Indian personalities and politicians. "I wonder who gets the better turnout," a member of the press relations team behind the model's visit said.

Hillary Clinton ignores case against husband by cleaning closets

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton says she's able to ignore the sexual harassment case against her husband by going to church and cleaning her closets. "You have to box it off because there's no way that you can let people... interfere with your life," Clinton said in an NBC radio interview. She noted that the couple attended church Sunday and said she distracted herself the rest of the day by cleaning out closets amongst other household tasks. "So, there's just a way in which we try and keep our lives as normal as possible despite what's going on around us," she concluded.

Spice Girls fan's stereo seized for really annoying neighbours

CARDIFF (AFP) — A die-hard Spice Girls fan had his stereo seized by a court after annoying his neighbours by playing their hits 16 hours a day for months on end. James Evans, 24, became "the most hated man in the neighbourhood" by blasting out hits such as "Wannabe" and "Spice Up Your Life" at full volume. Other residents in the block of flats were often kept awake until 4:00 a.m. by non-stop music, a court heard. After complaints, noise control officers visited the next door flat at 2:00 a.m. and heard the Spice Girls so clearly through the wall that they could write down the lyrics, the court heard.

Cantona brothers at comedy film festival

PARIS (AFP) — The footballing Cantona brothers will guest at this year's International Comedy Film Festival in the French Alps this week. Eric Cantona, who played notably for France and Manchester United before retiring last year, and his brother Joel, who played for Marseille, star in the short "Question d'honneur." The two have already appeared on the screen in the widely acclaimed film "Le Bonheur est dans le Pre."

Swedish crown princess to study at Yale

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is to study at Ivy League university Yale this term, Yale registrar Cathy Woods told Swedish commercial television TV3. "She is one of our special students," Woods said. The royal palace had announced that the 20-year-old crown princess had abandoned plans to study at Sweden's Uppsala University in favour of an undisclosed U.S. college. Palace spokeswoman Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg said the reason was "to give the crown princess the possibility to be left alone and carry out her studies undisturbed."

Chinese man kidnapped in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Tribesmen have kidnapped a Chinese man in southern Yemen, security officials said on Wednesday.

They said the Chinese, the latest foreigner abducted in the poor Arab state, was kidnapped in the province of Ahyan. His identity was not immediately known.

"There is no definite information if the man is a

diplomat at the Chinese embassy or an engineer with a construction company operating in the region," a security official said.

Chinese embassy officials were not available for comment.

Three South Koreans, including a woman and her daughter, were abducted in the capital Sanaa this month but released after four days.

Their captors had wanted to press authorities to execute four men convicted of raping a 10-year-old boy.

Kidnapping is a common ploy by Yemeni tribes with grievances against the government or foreign oil companies. More than a hundred foreigners have been taken hostage since 1992. Most were freed unharmed.